

of OPTOMETRY



CATALOG

COLLEGE

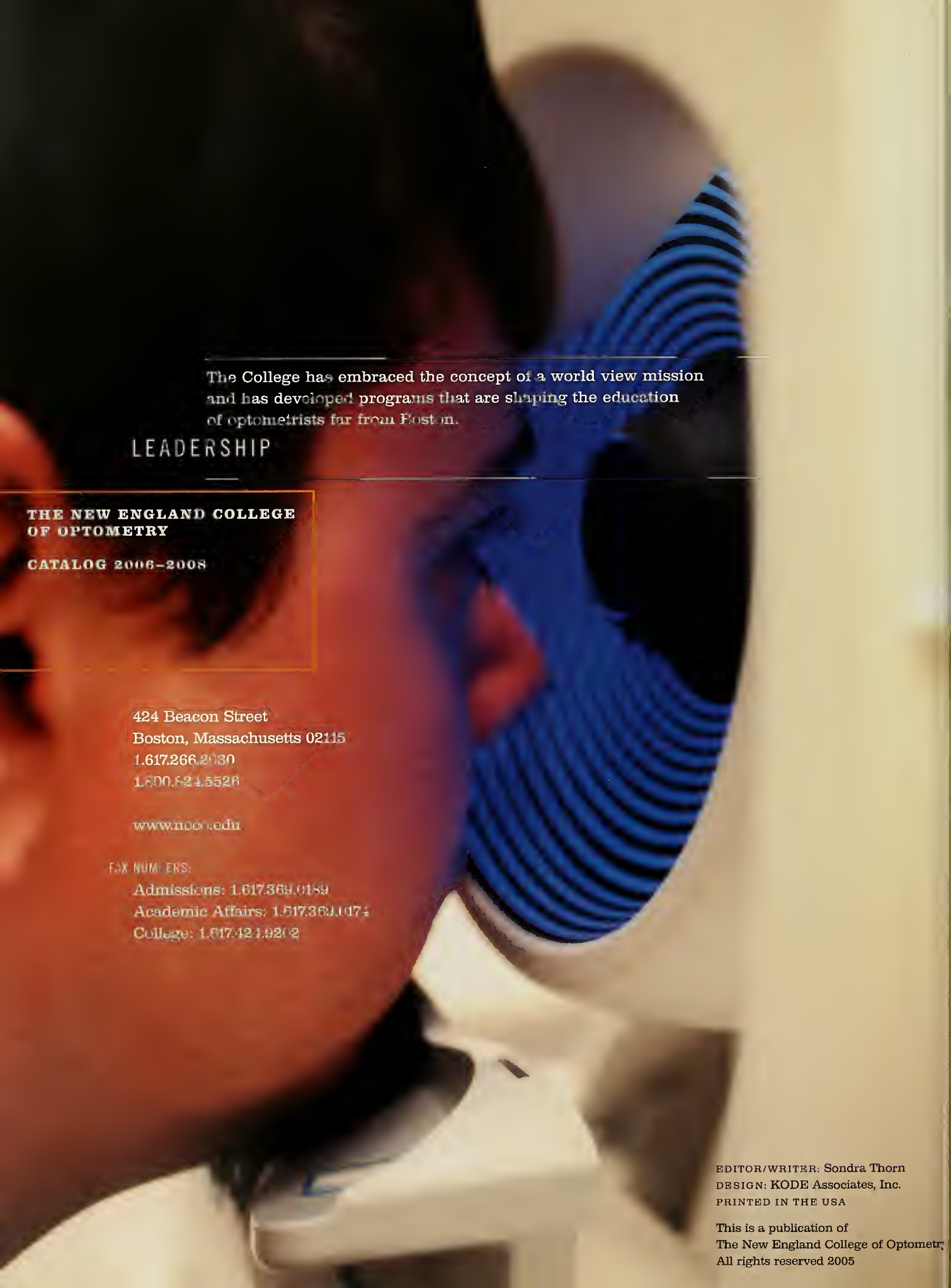
the NEW ENGLAND

2006

leadership  
impact  
experience  
vision

07

08



The College has embraced the concept of a world view mission  
and has developed programs that are shaping the education  
of optometrists far from Boston.

## LEADERSHIP

**THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE  
OF OPTOMETRY**

**CATALOG 2006-2008**

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Boston, Massachusetts 02115  
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## **FOREWORD**

The College makes every effort to be certain that the catalog is substantively true and correct in content and policy as of the date of publication. It should not, however, be construed as the basis of an offer or contract between the College and any present or prospective student. While to the College's knowledge, the catalog contains no erroneous, deceptive, or misleading statements or omissions, the College retains the right to amend, add or delete any information in the catalog, including any course of study, program or regulation, subsequent to publication thereof. Announcements of such changes are made on a routine basis within the College and are available on the College's website: [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu)

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

The New England College of Optometry prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, creed, marital or parental status, sexual preference, or national origin in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of its programs and activities, as specified by federal and state laws and regulations.

**A LETTER FROM ALAN LAIRD LEWIS, OD, PhD  
PRESIDENT**

*Alan Laird Lewis*



**THE NEW ENGLAND  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

424 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115  
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The New England College of Optometry is unique among the nation's schools and colleges of optometry. Although we are a small, private institution with over 100 years of history, our programs are renowned for their excellence, innovative approaches to professional clinical education, and worldwide impact. Our faculties, research facilities, and funding from the National Eye Institute rival those of large universities, our community-based clinical services pre-date today's national emphasis on public health by over 35 years, and our international affiliations are improving eye and vision care in Europe, Africa and China. We pride ourselves on providing not only a rich academic and clinical experience for our students, but also a friendly, supportive and caring environment that recognizes human dignity and worth. Just as we demand responsibility and accountability from ourselves and our students, we value fairness and compassion toward others.


Optometry is a patient-centered profession. For over 30 years, the clinical training programs of the College have largely been based in Boston's nationally recognized community health center system, hospitals, and special needs clinics rather than an isolated eye clinic located on the campus. Consequently our students emerge with an understanding of, and a passion for, serving their communities as full members of the public health team. Even within the College's own clinical affiliate, the New England Eye Institute, the distributed clinical care model is aimed at strengthening the health of our communities by making care more accessible to those who need it.

The College is committed to the idea that any truly learned profession must contribute to the generation of new knowledge to sustain and enhance its scientific foundations. We therefore support an active and productive basic and applied research effort that encompasses a diverse array of investigations into such questions as the etiology and development of myopia, the treatment of diabetes mellitus, the efficacy and safety of orthokeratology, the role of aberrations in visual performance, and the design of health care delivery models. Through the College's research education programs, a master's degree program and summer research fellowships, students have the opportunity to engage in vision research.

Boston is an educational jewel. Harvard, MIT, Boston University, Tufts University, three medical schools, and over one hundred other schools and colleges are easily accessed from our Beacon Street campus. The interactions and collaborations of our college community with these other world-class institutions assure unrivaled access to the finest minds and medical care in the nation.

The New England College of Optometry has been a leader in optometric education for as long as there has been a profession. It started in 1894 with August Klein's attempt to improve eye care by providing formal training for those who fit spectacles in Massachusetts. Over time, the school has evolved into a world leader in optometric education, vision research and patient care. We are now well into our second century of excellence and are more vital and vigorous than ever.

Whether you are a potential applicant, an alumnus, a patient, or a visitor to Boston, I invite you to visit the College to experience our magnificent award winning campus, our enthusiastic and dedicated faculty, our unique community-based clinical system, and our innovative, integrated curriculum. I know you will feel welcome.



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"There is no possible way to list [all of the] contributions The New England College of Optometry has made to the profession of optometry and visual welfare of people throughout the United States and in every part of the world."

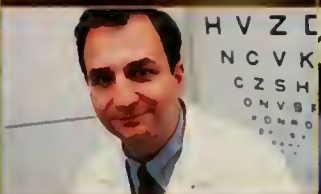
## IMPACT

—HOUSE OF DELEGATES, AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

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**THE NEW ENGLAND  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**





### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of The New England College of Optometry is to serve the optometric needs of the public by educating optometrists to the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism.

In achieving its mission, the College

- attracts and supports a faculty which excels at teaching and is committed to the growth and development of students
- creates a dynamic environment which combines tradition and innovation, fosters intellectual inquiry, and supports research
- serves the community by providing quality clinical vision care and educating the public about vision and eye health
- cultivates compassionate and ethical behavior, promotes lifelong learning, and instills sensitivity to the health and social welfare of the community.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

The New England College of Optometry seeks to be the preeminent college of Optometry.

The New England College of Optometry educates the world leaders of tomorrow for careers in eye care delivery, research, and education. The College honors discovery and supports an academic community which excels at teaching and research. The College is ever mindful of the public interest and possesses the resolve to produce important and lasting improvements in visual health and welfare throughout the world.

August A. Klein



**Over 100 years of vision:** Educating eye care professionals who can perform at a level of excellence in their chosen field and in the scientific environment of their times. Much has changed during the past century but the College's mission has remained the same.

*Over 100 years of vision*







Klein School of Optics established

**1894**



curriculum expanded to one year

**1900**



formal two-year program offered

**1909**



leadership  
impact  
experience  
vision

# Through the years:

1946 granted nonprofit charter with right to confer professional degrees

1968 first optometry school to affiliate with a U.S. public health hospital clinic

affiliation begins with Boston's neighborhood health centers

establishes accelerated OD program

first external clinic at Burroughs Newsboys Foundation Medical Clinic

opens Massachusetts Optometric Clinic

accredited by American Optometric Association

becomes Massachusetts College of Optometry

1933

1943

1947

1950

1972



## THE COLLEGE

## HISTORY

The New England College of Optometry was founded in 1894 by Dr. August Klein, a German ophthalmologist who established the Klein School of Optics to provide formal training to opticians. At the time, they had a very limited understanding of visual processes and sold spectacles on a "trial and error" basis. The original two-week curriculum rapidly expanded to one year by the turn of the century. Paralleling the rapid growth of optometry in the U.S. during the early 20th century, the College continued to formalize its programs and changed its name to the Massachusetts School of Optometry in 1901. In 1909, the curriculum expanded to two years, lengthening to three years in 1934 and four years in 1939.

Following the death of Dr. Theodore Klein, who had continued the work of his father, the College became a nonprofit institution and was granted approval to confer the Bachelor of Science in Optometry and the Doctor of Optometry degrees. Full accreditation was granted in 1947. The name was changed to the Massachusetts College of Optometry in 1950 and the College moved to 278 Newbury Street during that time.

A major restructuring in the 1960's significantly altered the curriculum by attracting more full-time academic faculty, many with PhD degrees. During this period, the College moved to its present Beacon Street location. Spurred by the availability of new federal funds to expand programs to train more optometrists, enrollment increased significantly during the 1970's to the current level of approximately 100 students per class. The name was changed to the New England College of Optometry in 1976.



# 1894-2006



Leading the way, the College designed and implemented the nation's first training program that qualified optometrists to use pharmaceutical agents and pioneered the integration of clinical optometric education into multi-disciplinary health care settings. What began in 1933 as a clinical training site at the Harry E. Burrows Newsboys Foundation Clinic has developed into a clinical education program where about 80% of the students' patient care experience is gained in community-based, public health clinics. In 2002, the College established the New England Eye Institute as a sole-member corporation to emphasize its patient care mission and to formalize its status as an academic health care institution.

In the early 1970's, the College established the first accelerated degree program for persons with PhDs who wished to earn a doctorate in optometry. Since 1985 foreign-trained physicians have also been welcomed to the program. A similar program was subsequently offered to foreign-trained optometrists. The College also moved into the international arena by formalizing an array of overseas teaching initiatives through its Center for the International Advancement of Optometry. These programs range from advanced therapeutic training for foreign-trained optometrists to partnering in graduate level education with foreign universities.

During the past ten years, the College has also greatly expanded its commitment to basic and applied research, reflecting its belief that the creation of knowledge is a fundamental obligation of an institution of higher learning. The College's research funding and productivity places it among the top programs in optometry and the College is currently developing graduate programs to further enhance its research education program.

The New England College of Optometry is committed to remain as a leader in optometric education, research, and eye care and public service.





"After I got here, it was nice to find out that the College has many professors and clinical staff who genuinely want to help the students succeed."

#### THE COLLEGE

## COMMUNITY

The College is located in a city that is synonymous with world-class hospitals and great medical care. Students work with patients of all types in community health centers and other settings along with residents and interns from many disciplines and specialties.

Classes are taught by some of the best scientists and clinicians in their field, relaying the latest concepts with care and attention. These faculty are available to students to answer their questions and help them shape their goals for their future. The College emphasizes small group instruction where students are encouraged to think through clinical case problems, integrating basic science and clinical observation to solve the problems of potential patients.



## THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

New students have the opportunity to perform visual screenings within a few months of their arrival, and become involved in this aspect of their education earlier than students at other optometry schools. Students quickly build up a level of proficiency so they can accept more and more responsibility for patient care. By the time they reach the all-clinical final year, they are experienced student clinicians, ready to perform full scope eye care under supervision. Students will have the opportunity to examine approximately 1,500 to 2,000 patients in some of the most interesting eye care settings imaginable: medical school teaching clinics, community health centers, some with a large immigrant patient base, and clinics for multiply handicapped children. They also have the option of studying in locations such as the Indian Health Service in New Mexico, and as far away as the Eye Hospital of Wenzhou Medical College in China and the Centro Boston de Optometría y Oftalmología in Madrid, Spain. This is not a typical optometry college experience.

Classes reflect one of the most diverse student bodies in optometry. Presently, students enrolled at the College represent 16 countries and 5 continents and the number of homelands increases almost yearly. A former faculty member in ophthalmology from China, Russia, Venezuela, Vietnam or an optometric clinician from Spain, South Africa, India, Nigeria, or an experienced vision researcher from Harvard, Yale, or Sun Yat-sen Medical University may be among those attending classes. The mix of nationalities and the infusion of experienced scientists and clinicians as classmates make for a unique and rich educational experience. The goal is to help each student attain the highest levels of competence in optometric care and broaden horizons, and perhaps even transform perspectives. The College hopes that each student leaves with an understanding of the unique privilege to serve the eye care needs of all people under all circumstances and in all parts of the world.





“Tons of restaurants, bars, shops, etc., so you don’t get bored. Boston is a small city yet there is so much to do. You could walk it in a day to see the sights, or live there for several years and still discover new things.”

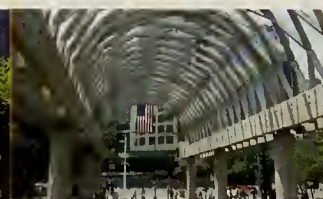
#### THE COLLEGE

## NEIGHBORHOOD

The New England College of Optometry is located on Beacon Street in a safe, residential, tree-lined neighborhood—the historic Back Bay section of Boston. Most of the structures were erected toward the end of the nineteenth century after the Back Bay’s tidal basin was filled in—and hence its name. This was a project unlike anything ever undertaken before and took more than ten years to complete. Once filled in, private homes well known for their architecture were constructed in the area and reflected the elegant styles of the well-to-do from that period. Now every spring many of the Back Bay’s streets are fragrant with the flowers of magnolia trees that were planted by a local resident in the early part of the twentieth century.

Commonwealth Avenue, located just two blocks from the Beacon campus, was once dubbed as the most elegant street in America by Sir Winston Churchill. A block away is the Newbury Street shopping district with its lively cafés and bookshops. Nearby is Boston Public Garden and the esplanade along the Charles River. Underneath the neighborhood lies a hub of Boston’s subway system, the nation’s first such public rail system. A major bus and subway intersection is located just a few blocks in either direction from the Beacon Street campus and the Boylston Street Fenway Practice. The College overlooks the river, where sailing and sculling boats are common sights on the water from spring until fall. Across the river is Cambridge, where the campuses for Harvard University and MIT are located.



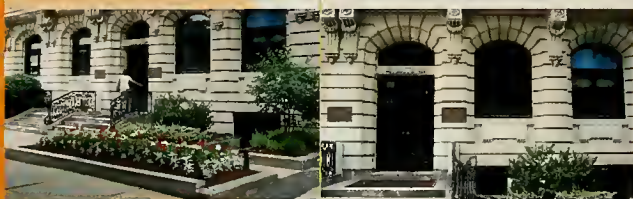


## THE COLLEGE AND THE CITY

Boston and its surrounding communities are ready to receive new students. Each year the area welcomes a quarter of a million college students, the largest and most diverse student population in the world. There is a wide variety of living options, cultural events, nightclubs and athletic facilities to meet the needs and interests of every student.

Although Boston is a big metropolitan area, the city itself is very accessible and most of it can be explored on foot. This was the scene of major battles where the area's settlers fought for their freedom from the British. The red-brick Freedom Trail guides people along a path where many famous events of the Revolutionary War took place. It is still the destination of many different immigrant groups. Today, these ethnic groups are clustered in neighborhoods across the city and in the surrounding suburbs. Chinese dialects can be heard in the markets and restaurants of Chinatown and Italian is still spoken in the shops and on the street corners of the North End.

The City of Boston has many fine museums. Resident music and dance groups perform regularly and its theatres often stage new plays before they open on Broadway. Boston sports fans are known for both their passion and their loyalty. Famous Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox baseball team, is just behind the Boylston Street campus. There is something for everyone in Boston. And the snow-covered mountains and clear lakes of Vermont and New Hampshire, the famous seacoasts of Maine and Cape Cod and many quaint New England towns are just a few hours away by car. Beyond that, New York City is only a four-hour train ride from the Back Bay.



"The College is in a classic New England type of home so it has a very cozy atmosphere and students feel like they are at home and part of a family."

#### THE COLLEGE

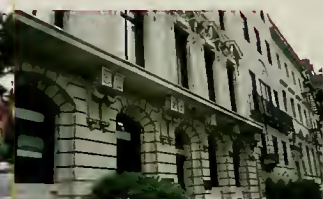
## CAMPUS

The academic campus of the New England College of Optometry is located at two primary sites. The largest of the two is located on Beacon Street in Boston's Back Bay. The main building was built in 1904 and the final phase of an award-winning restoration was completed in 1996. A spectacular spiral staircase distinguishes its restored interior. Beautiful views of the Charles River and the MIT campus beyond can be seen from the rear windows.

The Beacon Street campus includes classrooms and teaching laboratories for the vast majority of courses, and offices for the faculty and administration. Laboratories for the vision research programs and the well-known Myopia Research Center and Children's Vision Laboratory are on this campus as well.

The library, located on the ground floor, has developed an impressive collection that chronicles the history of optometry and related fields, while providing an extensive knowledge base covering relevant up-to-date developments and trends. These topics can be found in a collection of more than 11,000 volumes and over 200 journals on vision, optometry and related topics. The collection also includes slides and videos that can be viewed within the library. Students have access to a variety of databases, including Medline, E-journals and an online catalog through their PCs or workstations located in the library's Marco Instructional Technologies Center and the adjacent college café.






## THE COLLEGE RESOURCES

The College's second academic facility is located on Boylston Street, a half mile from the main campus. The Boylston Street campus contains faculty offices, teaching laboratories, the administrative offices of the New England Eye Institute, Inc., and the Institute's Fenway Practice.

The New England Eye Institute, Inc., serves as the clinical teaching affiliate of the College's Doctor of Optometry and residency programs. It manages several clinics with state-of-the-art equipment and comprehensive vision services. The Fenway Practice on Boylston Street is one such clinic. It is an on-campus teaching facility, and provides a complete range of eye care services including comprehensive exams, contact lens services, low vision care, pediatric care, vision therapy and refractive surgery evaluations.

The Institute also collaborates with an array of neighborhood clinical health centers. This provides students with a diverse patient population where they gain clinical experience in many types of settings as part of their training.



A man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white dress shirt and a patterned tie, is speaking and gesturing with his hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Over 100 years of educating eye care professionals.

EXPERIENCE

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THE COLLEGE

**ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS**



THE COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS

*multidisciplinary*  
“...educating the world leaders  
of tomorrow for careers in eye care  
delivery, research and education.”



#### THE COLLEGE

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The New England College of Optometry is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

### DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE

Looking into the future of optometric education, the demands upon twenty-first century optometrists will be many. Change will be a constant element in the delivery of care. Optometrists will need to assimilate an ever-expanding knowledge base, negotiate a complex health care system, learn and use new technologies in both the diagnosis and treatment of disease, adapt to new information systems, and continue to broaden their primary care role. With these challenges in mind, the optometric education programs of The New England College of Optometry provide students with the knowledge, the skills and the attitudes needed to be successful throughout their careers.

#### The Goals of Optometric Education

Optometrists serve as primary eye care professionals ready to interact with other health care providers to improve the human condition. The College's Doctor of Optometry degree programs provide students with a strong foundation in the visual, biomedical and clinical sciences, which are then integrated through a rich and diverse patient care experience. It is the philosophy of the College to underscore the important relationship between the basic sciences and the student's future role as an optometrist by seeking to involve students in patient care at the earliest possible time. Clinical experience enables students to become competent patient care professionals who can integrate scientific knowledge with clinical insights to solve complex vision problems. The College's educational programs are delivered by faculty selected for their expertise, commitment to teaching and support for



an environment within which students may thrive. Throughout the Doctor of Optometry degree program, the human dimension of being a health care provider is emphasized, as well as an appreciation for a commitment to community service and personal development.

The New England College of Optometry offers three programs leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree. Specific admissions requirements are described in the section on Admissions. The course listings for each program, along with course descriptions, are annually published as an addendum for each incoming class and are also available in the Academic Programs section of the College's website: [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu)

The College's Doctoral Degree Programs:

- Four-year Doctor of Optometry Degree Program
- Advanced Standing International Program
- Accelerated Optometry Degree Program

**"Doctors of optometry are independent health care providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and related structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions."**

—AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

#### **Four-year Doctor of Optometry Degree Program**

The four-year program is designed for applicants who have completed a minimum of three years of undergraduate education or the credit hour equivalent. However, students are generally expected to complete a bachelor's degree before admission.

The program is on a semester system for the first three years, with a supplemental eight-week program in the summer between the second and third years. During the third year of the program, students may select a special emphasis track through elective course offerings. The College's unique elective program provides students with the opportunity for advanced education in an area of personal interest with options for pursuing a postgraduate education. The final year is all clinical, with students spending twelve months (four quarters) assigned to clinical care sites.

#### **Advanced Standing International Program**

The Advanced Standing International Program is one component of the College's ongoing commitment to international optometry and its efforts to develop highly educated professionals who may then contribute to the development of optometry in their home countries. Graduates of foreign optometry programs may be admitted with advanced standing to the Doctor of Optometry degree program. Many graduates of this program have subsequently assumed leadership roles in education, patient care and public health, affecting the access and quality of patient care around the world.

The core curriculum for this program is designed to complement a student's previous education and experience. Each student's educational background is assessed and appropriate modifications are made to the curriculum to insure that students graduating from the program possess the same requisite entry-level competencies as other students receiving the Doctor of Optometry degree from the College.

The program is conducted over a continuous two-year period. Didactic courses predominate the first year of the program, with some elective courses available. The second year of the program consists of individually assigned clinical rotations.







"If I have a break between classes, I like to walk down the street and across the footbridge to the park by the river."



#### THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Throughout the Doctor of Optometry degree program, the human dimension of being a health care provider is emphasized, as well as an appreciation for a commitment to community service and personal development.

#### Accelerated Optometry Degree Program

The Accelerated Optometry Degree Program was established in 1972 to attract individuals who possess the advanced knowledge and skills to provide unique contributions through teaching, research, and clinical care. The Accelerated Degree Program is designed to provide an accelerated education for qualified applicants with either an earned doctorate in one of the biological, behavioral, or physical sciences, or a doctoral-level health profession degree. Graduates of the program are prepared to enter the profession in clinical practice, optometric education or research. The program is conducted continuously over a twenty-seven month period.

#### Accelerated Optometry Degree Program—China

The New England College of Optometry enjoys a close affiliation with the Wenzhou Medical College, located in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province of the People's Republic of China. In 2000, the two institutions initiated a dual degree program (MS/OD) which articulates the three-year, post-medical school Master of Science degree program at the Wenzhou Medical College and the College's Accelerated Optometry Degree Program. Applicants are required to have a five-year Bachelor of Medicine degree with an emphasis in optometry or ophthalmology. They must also meet the admissions requirements of both colleges. The course of study may take four to five years, with one to one-and-a-half years in the United States. This program is the first international joint health care degree program ever approved in modern China.

All doctoral degree programs are reviewed on an ongoing basis and the College reserves the right to modify the curriculum to insure that students acquire the most contemporary knowledge and skills.





## THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY CURRICULUM

The New England College of Optometry strives to provide students with an educational experience that prepares them for the practice of optometry, not only for today, but for years into the future. In the fall of 2001, the College began phasing in a new curriculum, now known as "Curriculum 2010." Curriculum 2010 embraces an educational philosophy that the College believes is essential to long term success in today's health care environment by:

- attracting expert faculty committed to teaching and the growth of students,
- placing a high emphasis upon the integration of the basic and clinical sciences,
- providing early and expanded patient care experiences,
- embracing "just-in-time" teaching, through which the timing and sequencing of educational assignments are directly linked to patient care experiences,
- providing a rich and diverse array of patient care experiences throughout the program,
- assuring a curriculum-wide emphasis on professional attributes including:
  - communication skills
  - critical thinking and problem solving
  - facility with information systems
  - a commitment to lifelong learning
  - an application of moral and ethical responsibility,
- providing an educational program based within the broader context of the patient's relationship to the community and the health care system,
- providing students with the option of elective, special-emphasis tracks, through which they may acquire self-selected, advanced knowledge and skills.

### Educational Objectives

The faculty of the New England College of Optometry have established a common set of objectives for all of its Doctor of Optometry educational programs. These objectives reflect the competencies expected of every graduate of the College, to enable the graduate to independently practice optometry anywhere in North America.



## Doctor of Optometry Curriculum Competencies for the 2010 Graduate

A Doctor of Optometry graduate from the New England College of Optometry must be knowledgeable in ophthalmic and systemic care, and possess a commitment to continuously improve knowledge and abilities. The graduate will be skillful in techniques and new technologies, skillful in problem solving, and will possess professional, ethical and compassionate behavior and standards. The graduate will be able to address community health issues and thrive in a changing health care environment.

**Knowledgeable in visual, ocular and systemic care—the graduate shall:**

- know the structure and function of visual and systemic systems,
- know the normal range of clinical findings,
- recognize pre-disposing epidemiological, environmental, and etiological factors that require intervention to prevent visual deterioration or ocular disease,
- understand the principles underlying the use of ophthalmic devices and procedures in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of visual conditions,
- understand the mechanisms and interactions of pharmacological agents along with their safe and effective use in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions,
- understand the pathogenesis of disease and the implications for ocular health and function and be knowledgeable in ocular and laboratory testing used in the assessment of systemic, visual and ocular function,
- know the scientific and statistical principles underlying the practice of optometry,
- possess the initiative and critical acumen required to continuously improve their knowledge.

**Skillful—the graduate shall demonstrate the ability to:**

- obtain the pertinent information about a patient using communication, observation, and diagnostic testing,
- interpret results of common procedures, develop differential and definitive diagnoses, devise and implement treatment and management strategies, including the skillful use of ophthalmic materials,
- recognize and triage life threatening and sight threatening problems,
- be aware of the limitations of current procedures and the need to continuously learn, understand, develop and incorporate new technologies and procedures into examination strategies,



- be skillful in organizing, integrating and applying knowledge,
- apply scientific principles to problem solving by:
  - identifying the problem,
  - retrieving relevant information from current knowledge of basic sciences, judging its adequacy, pursuing additional information and assessing its value,
  - interpreting and relating all data to the information obtained,
  - applying deductive reasoning to solve the problem,
  - monitoring outcomes and modifying management strategies.

Professional and ethical—the graduate shall demonstrate:

- knowledge of principles that govern ethical decision making and respect for the dignity of the patient,
- honesty and integrity in patient and professional interactions and be mindful of ethical pitfalls, conflicts of interest and legal issues in various practice arrangements,
- ability to provide compassionate care,
- commitment to provide eye care regardless of the patient's economic means,
- skill to identify and relate to the special needs of diverse patient populations,
- understanding of community health issues,
- how to use epidemiological factors to identify and respond appropriately to environmental issues affecting eye disease,
- how to thrive in a changing health care (eye care) marketplace,
- understanding of organizational and financial issues of private practices, health centers, HMOs and hospitals,
- recognition that health care is a team approach which includes a wide range of professionals and practitioners in both the local and global communities,
- ability to participate and take leadership in interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary health care communities,
- understanding of the standard of care for various disease entities and to recognize the risks, consequences and legal implications of the failure to adhere to established and recognized standards.

THE COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS





## THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### CURRICULUM ORGANIZATION

The curricula for each of the three programs are organized and delivered through four departments: Vision Science, Biomedical Science and Disease, Community Care and Public Health, and Specialty and Advanced Care. Each course is developed as one step in a sequence designed to facilitate each student's mastery of the knowledge and skills required of an optometric professional capable of managing conditions of the human eye and visual system.

The Department of Vision Science provides course material leading to an understanding of the theory and application of optics, the structure and function of the normal and abnormal visual system, and the mechanisms of human visual perception. To that end, the content of the Vision Science curriculum is presented within four general areas: optics, visual neuroscience, binocular vision, and vision testing.

The Department of Biomedical Science and Disease provides course material leading to an understanding of the normal and abnormal structure and function of the human organism. A background is provided in fundamental anatomical, biochemical, and biophysical mechanisms; physiological, immunological, and pathological processes; and the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular and systemic disease.





The College emphasizes small group instruction where students are encouraged to think through clinical case problems, integrating basic science and clinical observation to solve the problems of potential patients.

#### THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Department of Community Care and Public Health provides classroom education, technical workshops, and clinical training to help students develop their patient care skills and understand the role of optometric care within the greater health care delivery system. Emphasis is placed on balancing scientific knowledge, technical expertise, problem-solving ability and personal interactions to enable doctors-in-training to become competent, compassionate eye care professionals. The selection of clinical assignments is based on factors that include diverse patient populations, exposure to state-of-the-art instrumentation, and supervisory faculty who are committed to both patient care and education.

The Department of Specialty and Advanced Care offers courses and clinical programs that encompass the specific background, skills, clinical insights, and patient-management capabilities required of optometrists within the specialties of contact lenses, low vision, pediatric optometry and binocular vision. The curriculum provides a foundation that integrates basic science with clinical science and is directly related to the clinical care of patients within these specialized areas.

Course descriptions may be found on the College's website at [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu) and within the catalog's curriculum supplement.





## THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

“The College’s clinical training programs have largely been based in Boston’s nationally recognized community health center system, hospitals, and special needs clinics rather than an isolated eye clinic located on the campus.”

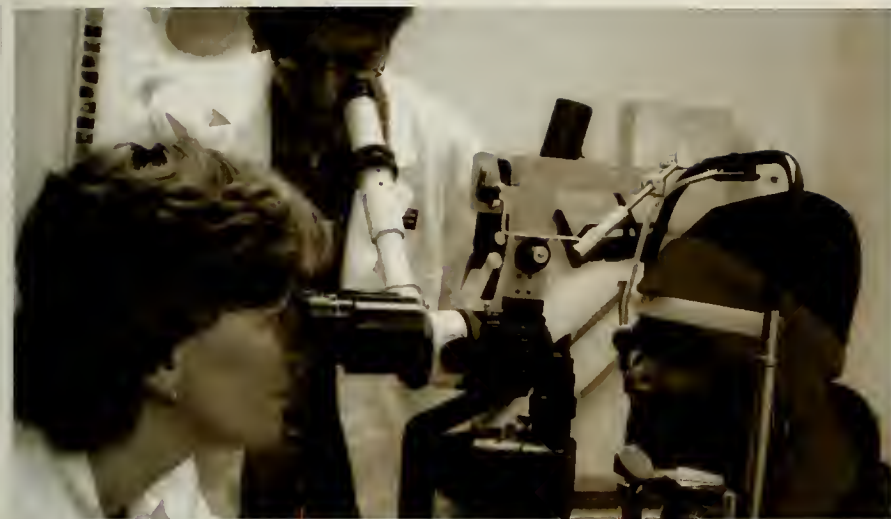
## THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The New England College of Optometry offers a curriculum with several distinct program features. These include a uniquely designed clinical education program, the use of interdisciplinary, integrative seminars that extend through most of the educational experience, and the opportunity to pursue special emphasis tracks in areas of unique interest.

### **Integrative Seminar Track: An Interdisciplinary Experience**

The Integrative Seminar Track relies on small groups for student-centered learning using a variety of formats. Self-guided learning by the student is emphasized, promoting independent information gathering habits, and organizational, analytical, and critical skills while developing the characteristics of self-motivation and self-reliance. The material covered is coordinated with current coursework in the basic sciences and the student’s current scope of patient care experience. Information gathering skills are integrated as needed. The seminar series examines the many ways in which a doctor and a patient interact and stimulates discussion about ethics, communication, compliance, psycho-social parameters and networks, the health care marketplace, accessibility and financial considerations, and community-oriented care. This course uses the current literature and is set up to develop flexible responses to changes in the profession.





### Clinical Education

The clinical curriculum enables students to attain and demonstrate an ascending sequence of clinical skills. The earliest clinical education begins within eight weeks of arrival on campus and includes clinical observations of optometrists and other primary care doctors examining patients and participation in vision screenings in a variety of settings. Students keep a journal of their clinical learning experiences.

During the second year of the program students are assigned to clerkships in practices in the Boston area. Settings include private practices, HMOs, hospitals, and corporate and multidisciplinary clinics. Students provide support to the practice through pre-testing, taking patient case histories, working in dispensaries with both spectacles and contact lenses, special testing (e.g., automated visual fields, fundus photography, etc.) and spending some time as general staff support to sensitize them to issues of practice management.

Students begin their third year by conducting complete examinations of patients during an eight-week summer session between the second and third years. During the third year, students experience three different clinical rotations in primary care, along with the first of two contact lens rotations. At this point students have full clinical privileges to examine patients under the supervision of optometrists who have faculty appointments.

## THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY CLINICAL AFFILIATIONS

Aran Eye Associates Coral Gables, FL  
 Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center Phoenix, AZ  
 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Miami, FL  
 Boston Aid to the Blind Boston, MA  
 Boston Medical Center Boston, MA  
 Braverman Eye Center Hallandale, FL  
 Brooke Army Medical Center Fort Sam Houston, TX  
 Capital Eye Consultants Fairfax, VA  
 Cardinal Cushing School Hanover, MA  
 Centro Boston de Optometría y Oftalmología Madrid, Spain  
 Codman Square Health Center Dorchester, MA  
 The Cotting School Lexington, MA  
 Dimock Community Health Center Boston, MA  
 Dorchester House Multi-Service Center Dorchester, MA  
 East Boston Neighborhood Health Center East Boston, MA  
 Eye Associates of Fairfield, P.C. Southport, CT  
 Eye Care Center at Fenway Boston, MA  
 Eye Centers of Florida Fort Lauderdale and North Miami Beach, FL  
 The Eye Foundation of Utah Salt Lake City, UT  
 Framingham Public Schools Framingham, MA  
 Geiger-Gibson Health Center Dorchester, MA  
 Hanscom Air Force Base Bedford, MA  
 Hebrew Rehabilitation Center West Roxbury, MA  
 Indian Health Service Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM, and Fort Washakie, WY  
 Joslin Diabetes Center/Beetham Eye Unit Boston, MA  
 Koch Eye Associates Warwick, RI  
 Lahey Clinic Burlington and Peabody, MA  
 Marion Manor South Boston, MA  
 Martha Eliot Health Center Jamaica Plain, MA  
 The May Center Randolph, MA  
 New England Medical Center Boston, MA  
 New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans Boston, MA  
 Newport Naval Ambulatory Care Center Newport, RI  
 North End Community Health Center Boston, MA  
 Omni Eye Services of Atlanta Atlanta, GA  
 Omni Eye Services of New Jersey Iselin, NJ, and New York, NY  
 Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston Boston, MA  
 Ophthalmic Consultants of Connecticut Fairfield, CT  
 Perkins School for the Blind Watertown, MA  
 Pine Street Inn Boston, MA  
 Richlin Eye Associates Beverly Hills, CA  
 Ridgefield Family Eyecare and Vision Institute in Sports Vision Ridgefield, CT  
 Seidenberg Protzko Eye Associates Havre de Grace, MD  
 Shaughnessy Kaplan Rehabilitation Hospital Salem, MA  
 Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center Allston, MA  
 Somerville Eye Associates Somerville, MA  
 South Boston Community Health Center South Boston, MA  
 South End Community Health Center Boston, MA  
 University of Maryland Department of Ophthalmology Baltimore, MD  
 Upham's Corner Health Center Dorchester, MA  
**Veterans Affairs Medical Centers**  
 Baltimore, MD; Bedford, MA; Boston, MA; Brockton, MA; Fresno, CA;  
 Hudson Valley, NY; Jamaica Plain, MA; Lake City, FL; Lowell, MA;  
 Manchester, NH; Newington, CT; Northampton, MA; Portland, OR;  
 Providence, RI; West Haven, CT; West Roxbury, MA; White River Junction, VT;  
 Worcester, MA  
 Vision Care of Maine Bangor, ME  
 Vision Institute of Canada North York, Ontario, Canada  
 Dr. Deborah Wayne and Associates Chelsea, MA  
 Wenzhou Medical College Wenzhou, Zhejiang, P.R. China  
 Whittier Street Community Health Center Roxbury, MA

*(List of affiliations may change with time.)*



#### THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

There are clinical rotation assignments available at more than 50 clinical practice sites throughout New England, the United States and even worldwide.

The final year of the Doctor of Optometry degree program is entirely clinical—spanning 12 months of full-time clinical rotation assignments available at more than 50 clinical practice sites throughout New England, the United States, and even worldwide. Students are assigned to a clinical rotation at a community health center, a hospital or medical center, a clinic serving special populations (pediatrics, geriatrics, and/or low vision patients), and an elective rotation that includes their area of special interest. The final year also provides students with their second clinical experience in contact lenses.

#### **Special Emphasis Tracks**

Students enrolled in the four-year Doctor of Optometry program have the opportunity to select an area of “special emphasis” at the beginning of their third year. Special emphasis tracks serve to coordinate the elective didactic and clinical education programs. The program provides students with advanced education in an area of personal interest and one in which postgraduate educational opportunities exist. Participation in a special emphasis track provides students with advanced knowledge in an area of interest or provides them with a basis for pursuing additional education opportunities. Tracks include:

- Business Management
- Community and World Health
- Special Populations (i.e., Pediatrics, Geriatrics)
- Advanced Medical Management
- Advanced Refractive Care
- Primary Care





The College's research program is comparable to those of larger universities in ambition and scope, and ranks first among private schools of optometry in externally funded research projects.



## THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### RESEARCH EDUCATION

The College's research program is comparable to those of larger universities in ambition and scope, and ranks first among private schools of optometry in externally funded research projects. Research at the College is being conducted in a variety of areas including elements of basic biological science and biochemistry, visual neuroscience, developmental biology of the eye and visual system, visual optics, visual psychophysics of normal and abnormal vision, oculomotor control, and mechanisms of ocular diseases and disorders. An area of research emphasis at the College is the development of refractive errors and the control of myopia. This has led to the formation of the Myopia Research Center. Descriptions of research being conducted at the College are located on the website and published in the brochure *Research: Vision in Focus*.

The College has endeavored to make research accessible to students and has developed several opportunities for students to acquire research skills and credentials. The mission of these programs is to educate clinician-scientists who will contribute knowledge to our understanding of vision and disorders of the visual system.

#### Master of Science in Vision Science (MS)

The College offers a graduate research program leading to the MS degree for students who are interested in research related to vision science. There are two options for earning the MS degree, a dual degree program in which both the MS and OD are earned concurrently, and a stand-alone MS degree program. Details regarding the Master of Science degree are available from Admissions and on the College's website.

#### Summer Traineeships

A federally sponsored summer traineeship program is open to students at the College as well as students from other schools of optometry around the country. This selective ten-week course offers introductory training in basic research skills and the opportunity to participate in ongoing research in the laboratory of their choice.

"Communication between faculty/administration and students is always open and encouraged. At the College I don't feel as if I'm just a student being taught, I feel like an integral part of the development of my educational experience."

## SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### Postgraduate Clinical Programs

**Residency Education:** The College offers or is the academic affiliate of twenty-six postdoctoral residency positions through fourteen programs for optometrists who desire more advanced training in clinical care. Residency programs are offered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and outpatient clinics, co-management centers and specialty practices throughout New England, the Boston Neighborhood Health Centers, and the Boston medical centers. Areas of emphasis include family practice optometry, ocular disease, pediatric optometry, contact lenses, low vision rehabilitation and geriatric optometry.



### THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Applicants for residency positions must be graduates of an accredited school or college of optometry and have excellent scholastic records, strong clinical performance and interest in advanced patient care, clinical education and research. Interested graduates should direct their inquiries to the College's Director of Residencies.

### International

The New England College of Optometry offers several other programs through the Center for the International Advancement of Optometry. The Center was created in 1994 with a mission of "promoting access to high quality and comprehensive eye and vision care for underserved populations around the world." Towards this end the College has conducted numerous programs for educators and professionals from around the world. Programs are delivered both in Boston and abroad. Overseas programs have been conducted in several countries, including the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Italy, Spain, France, Mexico and Israel. While programs are developed to meet the unique needs of each country and/or individual, non-degree programs generally have fallen into two broad categories: the Certificate of Advanced Study and the Visiting Scholars Program. The Certificate of Advanced Study was established in 1993 for foreign optometry graduates to engage in concentrated study in a specific area such as primary care, contact lenses, rehabilitative optometry, and ocular disease. Courses are directly drawn from those in the four-year Doctor of Optometry program at the College. The Visiting Scholars Program was developed for faculty/health care professionals from other institutions to allow them to participate in custom-designed studies at The New England College of Optometry. The goal is to develop highly trained faculty to assist in the development and implementation of optometry programs in their home countries.





#### THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The College currently offers one degree program abroad, the Bachelor of Science in Optometry degree program in Madrid, Spain. The international BS in Optometry was developed to provide Spanish optometrists who had earned a three-year university-based diploma with an opportunity to earn the degree by completing the equivalent of the fourth year of an undergraduate education. The curriculum is designed to build upon the university diploma. This program enables Spanish optometrists to upgrade their credentials in anticipation of evolving European standards for optometric practice. The program is offered on a periodic basis at the Centro Boston de Optometría y Oftalmología in Madrid. Additional information is available through the College's Center for the International Advancement of Optometry.

#### Center for Graduate Optometric Education

The primary responsibility of the Center for Graduate Optometric Education is to serve graduates and the profession as a leading source for postgraduate clinical education. The College provides experienced training and innovation in the content and delivery of programs that enhance the knowledge and skills of practicing optometrists. The College deems continuing education to be an ongoing responsibility of licensed optometrists, and is dedicated to serving the needs of practitioners throughout their careers.

Courses, seminars, lectures, and hands-on workshops offered through the College's Center for Graduate Optometric Education keep optometrists current with advances in the practice of optometry. Interactive clinical workshops are used to enhance lecture programs, giving participants an opportunity to examine patients and directly learn from ophthalmic experts using the most up-to-date diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in clinical settings. While the majority of programs are offered in New England, the College presents programs throughout the country and internationally with cooperation from local optometric societies and other colleges of optometry. The New England College of Optometry is a recognized provider of continuing education by all states and the American Optometric Association.



The mission of the New England Eye Institute, Inc. is, "to improve the visual health of populations through excellence in collaborative and community-oriented patient care, education, and research."

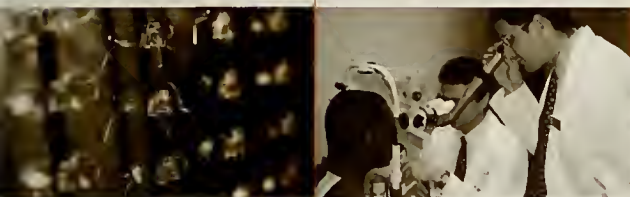
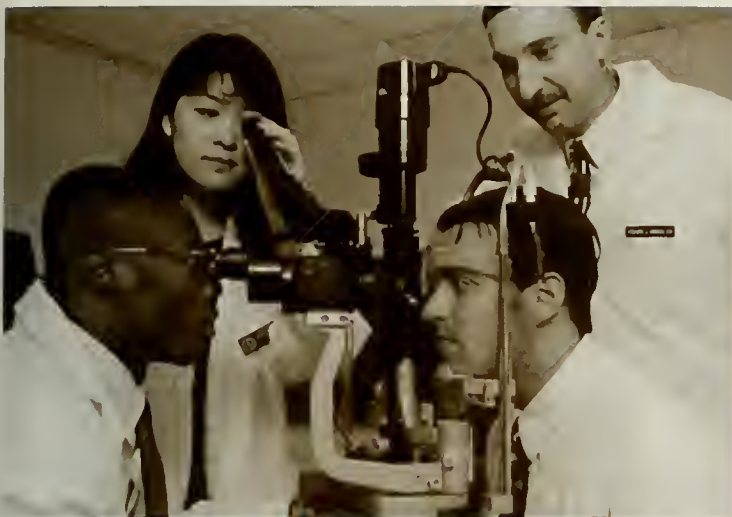
#### THE COLLEGE

## PATIENT CARE

The New England College of Optometry offers a superior clinical education that introduces the aspiring optometrist to a richly diverse patient base in a wide variety of community settings. Students work under the careful supervision of faculty mentors who help them hone their clinical skills and develop expertise in specialty areas of interest. They work in a clinical environment that familiarizes them with a contemporary health care model that emphasizes visual health through community-based collaborations.

The College's main clinical network and clinical education system is managed by the New England Eye Institute, Inc. (NEEI). The Institute is an independent, charitable organization that is wholly owned by the College and governed by a Board of Directors composed of leaders in health care, social service, policy and business. NEEI manages all College-owned patient care operations and maintains liaisons through professional service agreements with other clinical training sites in the Boston area. Its patient care model is based on an assessment of community needs, working closely with these communities to provide the best services to meet those needs. Through its programs, NEEI supports the College's mission of excellence in optometric education and vision research. The mission of the New England Eye Institute, Inc. is, "to improve the visual health of populations through excellence in collaborative and community-oriented patient care, education, and research." To accomplish its mission, NEEI has adopted the National Institutes of Health (NIH) strategic plan, Healthy People 2010, that identifies the most significant and preventable threats to health, and establishes national goals to improve the health of all Americans by reducing these threats. The American Optometric Association supports this initiative and has established objectives for vision care to meet the goals developed by NIH. These objectives have been incorporated into NEEI's clinical education program.





New students have the opportunity to perform visual screenings within a few months of their arrival, and become involved in this aspect of their education earlier than students at other optometry schools.

#### THE COLLEGE PATIENT CARE

Since the clinical education program is based on a strong presence in the community, it is driven by an ongoing assessment of community eye care needs. This involves a major effort to evaluate data on health disparities in vision impairment in Boston communities. The Institute is integrating epidemiologic and demographic data to:

- identify barriers to access of eye care,
- complete community geo-studies,
- locate underserved populations,
- develop an Institute response strategy.

The New England Eye Institute continues to seek ways to enhance care at current sites, develop new service locations and expand partnerships with health care providers and community organizations. NEEI operates the Fenway Practice, a stand-alone clinic located near the College that is devoted to excellent eye care and optometric education. NEEI also manages eye care programs in a variety of health care and social service organizations, provides professional staff to community health centers and hospitals, and conducts community-based health services research. These arrangements at more than twenty locations assure that the College has a greater influence on improving community health care in addition to providing essential services to previously underserved populations.

Patient care also reaches well beyond Boston's communities. The College has teaching affiliations throughout the U.S. and beyond that offer the fourth-year student an education in a variety of settings where they develop their clinical skills under the supervision of affiliated faculty and become acquainted with different models of regional optometric services. A complete list of current affiliations is included in the Academic Programs section.

With this strong emphasis on community-oriented primary care and the impact it has had on improving access to vision care services, the College, in partnership with the New England Eye Institute, is training the next generation of optometric clinicians and policy leaders. As they earn their doctorate and join the health care profession, they bring with them a commitment to community service and public health objectives.



"There is a strong and enduring feeling of collegiality at The New England College of Optometry within the faculty ranks, within the student body, and between faculty and students. This environment greatly facilitates learning, teaching, and research."

## THE COLLEGE

# RESEARCH

Health care is rapidly changing because of the enormous scientific advances made during the past few decades. New drugs, disease vectors, theories and therapies have changed clinical care into an ever-evolving activity. The College is committed to help lead the way toward better optometric care. Accordingly, it has brought together an academic faculty that is on the cutting edge of research in several important areas. This faculty performs research that is internationally acclaimed, teaches the latest concepts in class, and works with motivated students so they have the opportunity to participate in this exciting effort.

The College is small but its research program is ambitious. Research became a major focus at the College with the establishment of the Myopia Research Center in 1995. It has become a world-class research center that uses a multidisciplinary approach to advance knowledge in the understanding and prevention of myopia. In so doing, the College is responding to a worldwide need to deal with the spread of myopia. The National Eye Institute has recognized the importance of this research area and currently funds five myopia-related grants at the College.





## THE COLLEGE RESEARCH

On-going myopia research projects include investigations to:

- understand how visual experience can cause the eye to grow too long thereby causing myopia,
- understand the molecular changes that underlie excessive growth at the back of the eye,
- test drugs that may control the development of myopia,
- delineate ocular differences between children who develop good vision versus those who become myopic,
- determine the effects of special eyeglasses on the progression of myopia in different groups of children.

Other research projects at the College include:

- studying diabetes as an autoimmune disease,
- investigating the transport of drugs into the eye to prevent diabetic retinopathy,
- studying the relationship between the eye's optics and visual performance at low light levels,
- using visual perception tests in the early detection of systemic diseases,
- studying how oculomotor coordination affects visual perception,
- developing new and more effective methods for screening the vision of preschool children,
- using contact lenses to control the shape of the cornea of keratoconus and myopia patients.

Students, technicians and international collaborators are an active part of the research program, resulting in an exciting environment for everyone. Faculty and students publish numerous scientific papers and attend major research meetings to present their work. This is an exciting experience for students and an excellent way for the College to introduce them to the research community.

More information is available in the College's publication, *Research: Vision in Focus*.



ABOVE, RIGHT: The signing ceremony for the joint MS/OD program, the first international joint health care degree offered in modern China. It is the highest level of education in optometry for China and is the most recent agreement in a long-standing collaboration between China's Wenzhou Medical School and the College.

#### THE COLLEGE

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

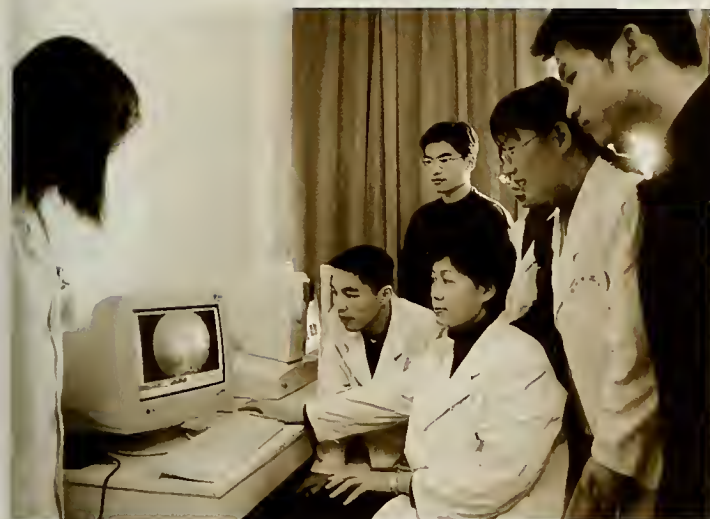
The College is a pioneer in developing international programs and collaborations. Its international approach emphasizes collaboration based on an underlying respect for existing resources.

At any given time, either an international scholar or a College faculty member is participating in one of the College's international programs. In these times of globalization, The New England College of Optometry has embraced the concept of a world view mission and has developed programs that are shaping the education of optometrists in lands far from Boston. The College is a recognized and respected leader in international education programs and has a 30-year history in advocating and promoting the advancement of the optometric profession worldwide.

The College community has become a composite of students from many different parts of the world. This diversity, which is the highest of any college of optometry, enriches the experience for everyone. Some are enrolled in the traditional doctoral program while others come for varying lengths of time to upgrade their credentials, work with college researchers or seek consultation. An interested student studying at the College may learn first-hand about eye care in other parts of the world. Students may also choose from established external clinical sites located in Spain, South Africa, Canada and China as part of their clinical rotation. By traveling to a different part of the world, they may learn about health issues in other countries and have an opportunity to serve underprivileged populations.

The New England College of Optometry officially adopted an international agenda in 1994 with the establishment of the Center for the International Advancement of Optometry (CIAO). Over the ensuing years, the Center has acquired an experienced staff with expertise in international program development. Projects are developed with a sensitivity to regional needs and carried out in collaboration with local eye care practitioners and educators.





LEFT: Optometrists from Italy at graduation to receive their OD degrees in 1997. The New England College of Optometry is the only school or college to deliver an accredited Doctor of Optometry program overseas.

#### THE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

CIAO currently conducts programs in China, Germany, Spain, Israel and South Africa that range from advanced training for optometrists in a focused area of study to partnering in graduate level education with foreign universities including, among others, Wenzhou Medical College in China and Aalen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The degree and certificate programs offered under CIAO, which are described in the Academic Programs section, are structured to build on the advanced standing of optometrists trained outside of the U.S. They are flexible and vary in length from a few weeks to several years. The relationship established in 1992 between Wenzhou Medical College and The New England College of Optometry is the most extensive CIAO project to date. The programs that have developed are imaginative and exciting, and go beyond other international efforts in their potential for change. It has set the stage for a groundbreaking approach to educating optometrists in China, based on health care needs and an existing medical education structure. The planning process evolved from the efforts of the world's largest optometric educational consortia, of which the College is a founding member. The consortia has effected an unprecedented international exchange of resources, both human and material, between select medical schools in China and participating colleges of optometry in the U.S. The potential impact on eye care in China is enormous.

The College's international approach emphasizes collaboration based on an underlying respect for existing resources. Programs are many and varied and may involve continuing education, assistance with educational development, consultation services, collaborative research or faculty support. The College's 30-year involvement in international programs has had an impact on the profession of optometry around the world:

- More than 100 foreign-educated optometrists have received their Doctor of Optometry degrees from the College's Advanced Standing International Program.
- Is the first and only college of optometry to deliver an accredited doctoral degree program overseas.
- In collaboration with Wenzhou Medical College in China, the College has established the first international joint health care degree program (MS/OD) ever approved in modern China.
- Over 1,000 students have participated in overseas programs offered by CIAO since 1990.
- Has provided support to over twenty countries worldwide since 1990 through CIAO's education and consultation services.



More information is available in the College's publication, *International Programs*.



The College's faculty share a passionate commitment to teaching, clinical care and research. This creates an intellectual environment where students may thrive and a framework that supports and promotes excellence in eye care.

## THE COLLEGE

# FACULTY

The College faculty possess a diverse array of expertise and experiential backgrounds to provide students with a wealth of resources through which they may achieve their potential.

## FULL-TIME FACULTY

**Barry J. Barresi**, *Professor of Health Policy and Vice President for Clinical Care and Services*

BA, Holy Cross College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
PhD, New York State University

**Nancy B. Carlson**, *Professor of Optometry*

BS, Central Connecticut State College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Gary Chu**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*

BS, University of Waterloo;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
MPH, Harvard University

**Nancy Coletta**, *Professor of Optics*

BS, Providence College;  
OD, Pennsylvania College of Optometry;  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

**James Comerford**, *Professor of Vision Science*

BS, Loyola University;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
MA, PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Jose De Jesus**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

BS, Indiana State University;  
OD, Inter American University School of Optometry  
MA, University del Caribe

**Li Deng**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

BA, Zhejiang University;  
MS, University of Texas, El Paso;  
MA, PhD, Rice University

**Aurora Denial**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

BA, Clark University;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry



**Taline Farra**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
OD, MS, University of Waterloo

**Louis A. Frank**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Richard M. Frankel**, *Associate Professor of Medicine*  
BA, Hofstra University;  
MPH, Columbia University School of Public Health;  
MD, Tufts University School of Medicine;  
MSEd, Hofstra University

**Jane E. Gwiazda**, *Professor of Vision Science*  
BA, Mount Holyoke College;  
MA, PhD, Northeastern University

**Daniel Kurtz**, *Professor of Optometry*  
BA, Oberlin College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
PhD, University of Michigan

**Alan Kwok**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, University of Toronto;  
OD, University of Waterloo School of Optometry

**Richard C. Laudon**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BA, University of Bridgeport;  
OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Constance Lee**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, California State University, Long Beach;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry



**Elise Harb**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BA, University of California, Santa Cruz;  
MS, OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Jennifer Hazelwood**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, The Ohio State University;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**David A. Heath**, *Professor of Optometry and Vice President/Dean for Academic Affairs*  
BA, Ithaca College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
EdM, Harvard University

**Elizabeth Hoppe**, *Professor of Public Health and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*  
OD, Ferris State University;  
MPH, Yale University;  
DPH, University of Michigan

**Richard J. Jamara**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, University of Massachusetts, Amherst;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Terrance Knisely**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Bowling Green State University;  
OD, Illinois College of Optometry;  
MS, Colorado State University;  
PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

**Steven B. Koevary**, *Professor of Immunology*  
BA, Queens College, The City University of New York;  
PhD, Mount Sinai Graduate School, The City University of New York

**Barry S. Kran**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, State University of New York, Binghamton;  
OD, State University of New York, State College of Optometry

**Alan L. Lewis**, *Professor of Physiological Optics and President*  
BS, OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry;  
MS, PhD, The Ohio State University

**Stacy A. Lyons**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BA, State University of New York;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Shital Mani**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Rutgers College;  
OD Pennsylvania College of Optometry

**Glen McCormack**, *Professor of Physiological Optics*  
BS, OD, Indiana University;  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

**Janis Mertz**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BA, Bridgewater State College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Bruce D. Moore**, *Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies*  
BA, Boston University;  
OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Gary Moss**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BA, Swarthmore College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
MBA, University of Massachusetts

**Debora Nickla**, *Assistant Professor of Biology*  
BS, State University of New York, Albany;  
PhD, City University of New York

**Bina Patel**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, OD, Indiana University

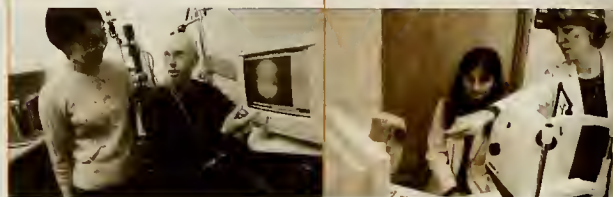
**Marjorie Rah**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, OD, MS, PhD, The Ohio State University, Columbus

**Shilpa Register**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, MS, OD, University of Alabama, Birmingham;

**Jack E. Richman**, *Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science;  
OD, Pennsylvania College of Optometry



"The College faculty are committed to nurturing an intellectual environment that is exciting for students and faculty alike."



## THE COLLEGE FACULTY

**Amy Roan**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

BA, University of Florida;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Clifford Scott**, *Professor of Optometry*

BS, OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry;  
MPH, Harvard University

**Manish Shah**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

BS, The Ohio State University;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Vandhana Sharda**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

BS, University of Toronto;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Frank Thorn**, *Professor of Vision Science*

BS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
PhD, University of Rochester

**David Troilo**, *Professor of Biological Science*

BA, State University of New York, Oswego;  
MA, The City College of New York;  
PhD, The City University of New York

**Ronald K. Watanabe**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*

BS, University of California, Los Angeles;  
OD, Southern California College of Optometry

**Erik Weissberg**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*

BS, State University of New York, Albany;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Roger Wilson**, *Professor of Optometry*

BA, State University of New York, Buffalo;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Mark B. Zorn**, *Professor of Biochemistry*

BS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry;  
MPP, Harvard University;  
PhD, Columbia University

## EMERITUS FACULTY

Depew Chauncey, OD, PhD  
Frank Kozol, OD  
Paul Lappin, OD, PhD  
Srinivas Natrajan, OD, PhD  
Joseph Svagdys, OD

## AFFILIATED FACULTY

There are approximately 120 faculty located at the College's affiliated clinics throughout the world.



## PART-TIME FACULTY

**Richard M. Calderon**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, MS, University of New Mexico;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Robert C. Capone**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Northeastern University;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Jerry D. Cavallerano**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BA, MA, PhD, Fordham University;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Barry M. Fisch**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BA, Boston University;  
BS, OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Thomas Freddo**, *Professor of Optometry*  
BA, University of Connecticut;  
OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry;  
PhD, Boston University

**Richard Held**, *Professor of Vision Science*  
BA, BS, Columbia University;  
MA, Swarthmore College;  
PhD, Harvard University

**Douglas J. Hoffman**, *Professor of Optometry*  
BS, University of Massachusetts;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Ralph Levoy**, *Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Villanova University;  
OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**James Mertz**, *Assistant Professor of Biochemistry*  
BA, MS, Western Carolina University;  
PhD, North Carolina State University

**Susan Monahan**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Trinity College;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Walter Potaznick**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn;  
OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Nicole Quinn**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, University of Vermont;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Gerald Selvin**, *Professor of Optometry*  
BA, Ithaca College;  
OD, Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Irwin M. Shwom**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BS, University of Massachusetts;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**William E. Sleight**, *Associate Professor of Optometry*  
BA, University of Maine;  
OD, The New England College of Optometry

**Nadia S. Zalaito**, *Assistant Professor of Optometry*  
BS, University of Connecticut;  
OD, Indiana University School of Optometry



THE COLLEGE  
FACULTY

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

**James Brooks, OD** *Associate Professor of Optometry*

**Kristin Brown, OD** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Joanne Caruso, OD** *Associate Professor of Optometry*

**Anthony A. Cavallerano, OD** *Professor of Optometry*

**Terry Chin, OD** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Claudia Evans, OD, MS** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Matthew J. Garston, OD** *Professor of Optometry*

**Ellen Gilman, OD, MEd** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Karen Gladstone, OD, MA** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Haiyan Gong, MD, PhD** *Associate Professor of Anatomy*

**Rodney K. Gutner, OD** *Professor of Optometry*

**Susan P. Haesaert, OD** *Associate Professor of Optometry*

**Maureen M. Hanley, OD** *Associate Professor of Optometry*

**Ji-Chang He, PhD** *Research Associate, Assistant Professor  
of Physiological Optics*

**Chea-su Kee, PhD**, *Research Associate, Assistant Professor  
of Physiological Optics*

**Trinh Khuu, OD** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Ernest Loewenstein, PhD, OD** *Associate Professor of Optometry*

**Anne Moskowitz, PhD, OD** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Arthur Neufeld, PhD** *Professor of Ocular Physiology*

**Eli Peli, OD, MSc** *Professor of Vision Science*

**Jean Ramsey, MD** *Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology*

**Stuart Rist, MS** *Assistant Professor of Optics*

**Beverly T. Scott, OD** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**David Shein, MD** *Assistant Professor of Medicine*


**Leonard Shwom, OD** *Assistant Professor of Optometry*

**Tom Trivison, PhD** *Assistant Professor in Biostatistics*

**Guang-Ji Wang, MD, OD** *Professor of Optometry*

**Blair Wong, BS** *Assistant Professor of Mechanical Optics*

**Darick Wright, MS** *Assistant Professor of Vision Rehabilitation*



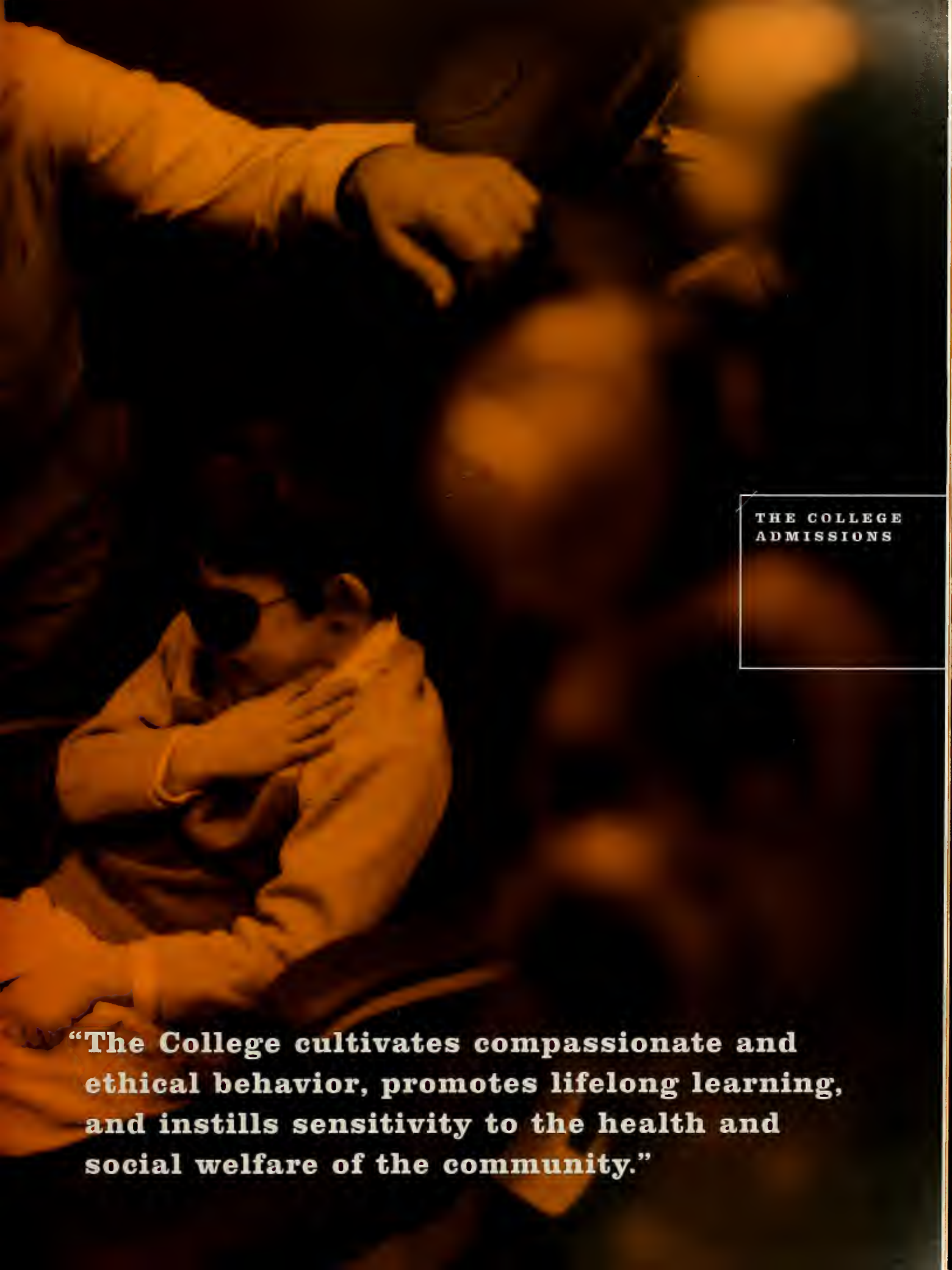
Established the world's first research center exclusively  
devoted to the study of myopia.

VISION

THE COLLEGE

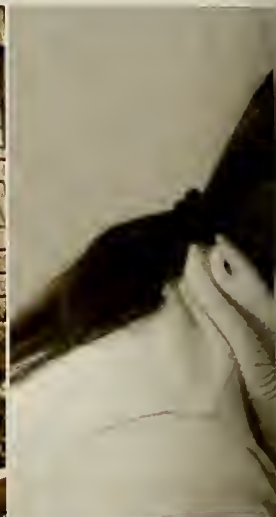
**ADMISSIONS**





THE COLLEGE  
ADMISSIONS

**“The College cultivates compassionate and ethical behavior, promotes lifelong learning, and instills sensitivity to the health and social welfare of the community.”**



The College community has become a composite of students from many different parts of the world. This diversity, which is among the highest of any college of optometry, enriches the experience for everyone.



## THE COLLEGE

# ADMISSIONS

## UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION

Applicants to the four-year Doctor of Optometry degree program must complete at least three years of undergraduate study prior to the date of planned enrollment; however, a bachelor's degree is preferred.

The New England College of Optometry seeks to admit students who possess the qualities deemed as important to succeed in the profession of optometry. A candidate is evaluated on academic performance as well as recommendations, essays and admissions interviews.

Only those students who have a good chance of graduating and performing as competent and caring optometrists are admitted to the program and the College takes much pride in its high rate of retention.

Most students admitted to the College have earned a BS or BA degree prior to admission. Those who have not, may earn a bachelor's degree from the College after one or two years of study toward the OD degree, providing they meet all degree requirements.

The student should complete the following courses to satisfy admissions requirements:

	Semester(s)	Quarter(s)
Chemistry (with lab)	2	3
Organic Chemistry (with lab)	1	2
Biology (with lab)	2	3
Microbiology	1	2
Mathematics (including Calculus)	2	3
Physics (with lab)	2	3
English	2	3
Psychology	1	2
Humanities (other)	4	6
Social Sciences (other)	4	6

One semester or two quarters of statistics is strongly recommended.





## THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

### THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

An application package can be obtained by telephoning or e-mailing the Admissions Office. Application forms are also available in the Admissions section of the College's website: [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu)

The College uses a rolling admissions process, so applications are considered continuously throughout the admissions period. Once an application is completed and has been reviewed by the Admissions Committee, the applicant will either be invited for an interview or advised of his or her failure to meet the admissions standards. No application will be considered complete, and no admissions decision will be made without a personal interview. Candidates will be informed of the Admissions Committee decision within two or three weeks following the interview. Upon acceptance, a \$500 nonrefundable deposit will be required to secure a seat in the entering class.

An applicant accepted for admission must complete all academic requirements prior to the year of entry. The College reserves the right to withdraw any offered acceptance if an incoming student has not satisfactorily completed the prerequisite courses.

### THE COMPLETE APPLICATION

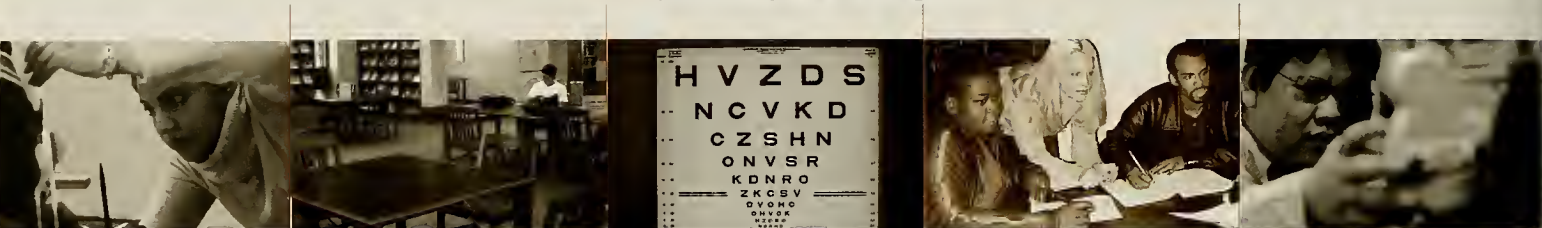
Applications are accepted from August 1 through March 31. A complete application file includes:

- A completed application form, accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$75 payable to the College. Only personal checks drawn on U.S. banks, money orders, or travelers or cashier's checks will be accepted.
- Complete official transcripts from each high school and college attended. A final transcript is required of all applicants after admission to the program in order to verify completion of academic requirements.
- Official results of the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT).
- Official results of all other standardized tests, such as SAT, ACT, CEEB, Achievement, GRE, Advanced Placement Tests, etc.

- A professional recommendation from the Pre-health Advisory Committee. This is a composite evaluation from faculty at an undergraduate college or university. If a school does not have such a committee, at least two letters of recommendation from faculty members may be substituted.

International applicants may need to submit additional information:

- For applicants who have attended institutions where instruction was not in English, the TOEFL examination (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is required to demonstrate a working knowledge of English. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (Web-based) is required. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) may also be required.



## THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Applicants from schools in countries that have no previous experience with the College are expected to submit their transcripts and coursework to the World Education Service for course and grade evaluation.

All material submitted becomes the property of the College. Confidentiality will be respected.

Under special circumstances, the Admissions Committee may waive submission of some credentials listed above.

## SUPPLEMENTAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

### Advanced Standing International Program

Applicants to the Advanced Standing International Program must have successfully completed study at a recognized non-U.S. optometry school. The optometry program must be at least four years in length. In addition, at least two years of postgraduate experience in clinical practice, research, or teaching are needed. Applications must be received by October 15th of the year preceding admission. The program starts in June.

The Optometric Practice Experience Questionnaires must be completed by applicants and should include all positions held since graduation from their programs. A curriculum vita is also required with the application.

### Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Degree Program

Applicants to the Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Program must have earned a doctorate in one of the biological, behavioral, or physical sciences or a doctoral-level health profession degree. The program requires approximately twenty-seven months of full-time participation. Applications are accepted throughout the year for a March start.



### Accelerated Optometry Degree Program—China

The New England College of Optometry with the Wenzhou Medical College in Wenzhou, China, offers a joint Master of Science and an Accelerated Doctor of Optometry (MS/OD) degree program. A qualified applicant must have graduated from a university in China and hold a medical degree with a specialization in ophthalmology or optometry and meet all other application and admission requirements of both colleges. Applications should be received no later than June 1 of the year preceding admission.

### Master of Science in Vision Science

Applicants to the dual degree OD/MS program must have a 3.00 GPA on prerequisites for the OD program, complete an essay detailing interest in the MS program and provide the names of three references who can attest to the candidate's analytical or research skills. Candidates for the stand-alone MS degree program must also submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

### Re-applicants

The College retains all application files for one year. Should an unsuccessful candidate wish to re-apply, a re-application form must be submitted. There is a \$75 re-application fee. All transcripts and recommendations submitted during the prior year can be used for re-application. The re-applicant must submit official transcripts for college courses taken since the last application.

### Transfer Students

On rare occasions and when openings permit, the College will review applications for advanced standing from students who are currently enrolled in other accredited schools or colleges of optometry. Official acknowledgment of transfer and certification of good academic standing are required from the dean of the optometry school from which the applicant seeks to transfer.

### 3+4 BS, BA/OD Degree Program

The College has agreements with a number of undergraduate institutions that permit selected students to matriculate at The New England College of Optometry after their third year of college and to earn their bachelor's degree from their home institution upon completion of their first year of optometry school. Students are admitted to the 3+4 program upon entry into undergraduate school and are guaranteed admission to The New England College of Optometry after their third year as long as specified standards are met. Colleges and universities having 3+4 agreements currently include:

- Assumption College, Worcester, MA
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Boston and Worcester, MA, and Manchester, NH
- Providence College, Providence, RI
- University of Hartford, Hartford, CT
- University of Maine, Orono, ME
- Wheaton College, Norton, MA



THE COLLEGE  
ADMISSIONS



The Financial Aid section on the College's website, [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu), includes the Financial Aid Handbook, containing information about the application process, scholarship listings, policies, debt management, the cost of education, and detailed information about aid programs. The College's aid application and other forms can be downloaded and printed from the webpage. Do not hesitate to contact the Financial Aid Office with any questions about the information on the website.

## AID PROGRAMS FOR U.S. STUDENTS

### Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan

A graduate or professional student who demonstrates financial need may borrow up to \$8,500 per year. The interest rate is adjusted each July 1 and is capped at 8.25%. Interest does not accrue during enrollment and during authorized grace and deferment periods. Repayment begins six months after departure from the College or when a student is enrolled in less than half-time study.

### Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

The terms and conditions of the unsubsidized loan are identical to those of the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan except financial need is not an eligibility criterion. However, unlike the subsidized loan, interest accrues during enrollment and is added to the loan principal upon repayment. Health professions students enrolled in a 9-month academic year at the College may borrow up to \$30,000 per year, depending on total cost of attendance and other aid. Students enrolled in a 12-month academic year can borrow up to \$36,667 for that year if otherwise eligible.

### Federal Perkins Loans

The average annual Perkins Loan at the College is \$5,000. The loan is interest free until repayment begins, and has a fixed rate of 5% during the repayment period. Repayment begins nine months after departure from the College.

### Health Professions Student Loan Program (HPSL)

The average HPSL per year at the College is \$6,000. Like other subsidized loans, it is interest free until repayment begins, and has a fixed rate of 5% during the repayment period. Repayment starts 12 months after departure from the College.

### Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

This program is designed to assist students who meet the eligibility guidelines for being "economically disadvantaged" as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services. Funding for the grant may vary each year, but individual awards range from \$500 to \$2,000.



THE COLLEGE

## FINANCIAL AID

Education programs in the health professions are expensive but represent an investment in a financially secure future career. Although some grants, scholarships, and work programs are available, most students rely on student loans as their main source of funding.



### **Loan for Disadvantaged Students (LDS)**

This program also targets economically disadvantaged students. It is a subsidized loan and the average funding level at the College is \$2,500 per year. Interest is a fixed rate of 5%, and repayment starts 12 months after departure from the College.

### **Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)**

This program provides jobs for students with financial need, and a source of income for living expenses. The FWS program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study. A complete financial aid application must be submitted to determine eligibility. In general, during the first year of participation in the FWS program at the College the wage is \$10 per hour and increases at a rate of \$1 per hour for each additional year of study.

## **AID PROGRAMS FOR CANADIAN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

### **Non-Federal Work-Study for International Students**

This program mirrors the federal work study program described above, but provides jobs for Canadian and other international students who are not eligible for FWS due to their citizenship status.

### **Saval Loan**

The College provides several Saval Loans each year to eligible applicants. The loan is interest free until repayment begins, and then has a fixed rate of 5%. The award is offered during the spring semester or the winter quarter. Repayment begins 12 months after departure from the College.

## **EDUCATION LOANS FROM PRIVATE AGENCIES (U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)**

Private loans are an important source of funding for many students, especially international students and U.S. students who have reached the annual limit on federal loans, but the terms and interest rates are usually not as favorable as government loans. Canadian students are encouraged to apply for Canadian government-sponsored student loans.



### **Graduate Education Loan through the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA):**

This loan is available to all domestic and international students. Applicants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents do not require a co-applicant, but it can reduce the cost of the loan. Canadian students must have a co-signer, but the co-signer may be a Canadian citizen. Other international students must apply with a co-signer who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. The maximum loan per year is the cost of education minus all other financial aid received for the same period, and a fixed or variable interest rate is selected by the applicant. This loan is unique in that the deferral period includes the period of enrollment at the College plus the six-month period after departure. Contact: [www.mefa.org](http://www.mefa.org)

### **Citibank's CitiAssist Loan**

Students from the U.S. may apply with or without a co-signer; international students must have a co-signer who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Applicants must have a satisfactory personal credit history. The maximum loan per year is the cost of education for that year minus all other financial aid received for the same period. Total borrowing cannot exceed \$110,000. The interest rate is variable, Prime Rate plus .25% adjusted quarterly. Contact: [www.studentloan.com](http://www.studentloan.com)

### **CanHelp Loan**

Canadian students may borrow without a co-signer. International Education Finance Corp. (IEFC) offers this loan that is guaranteed through TERI. Contact: [www.teri.org](http://www.teri.org)

### **CIBC Professional Edge Student Personal Line of Credit**

Canadian students can borrow only what is needed from a pool of funds, and interest is paid on the amount borrowed. Contact: [www.cibc.com](http://www.cibc.com)

“The New England College of Optometry has been a leader in optometric education for as long as there has been a profession.”



#### THE COLLEGE

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

### DEGREES OFFERED

#### **Doctor of Optometry Degree (OD)**

The Doctor of Optometry degree is the professional degree that is prerequisite for optometry licensure in the United States. The degree is conferred when all degree requirements have been satisfied.

The College offers three programs leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree. The traditional four-year degree program, a twenty-seven month accelerated degree program for those with advanced degrees in a related field, and an advanced standing program for international students who have graduated from four-year optometry programs in other countries.

#### **Master of Science in Vision Science (MS)**

The College offers a program leading to a Master of Science in Vision Science for qualified students who are interested in doing research in areas related to vision science. In one option, the MS degree program is available to eligible students who are already enrolled in the College's doctoral program. This is a four-year dual-degree program in which students must satisfy the requirements for both degrees to receive master and doctoral degrees upon graduation. As a second option, qualified students can earn an MS degree independently without enrolling in the OD program.

#### **Bachelor of Science in Optometry Degree (BS) for Doctor of Optometry Degree Candidates**

Students who have not completed the requirements for a BS degree before entering the four-year professional program may earn a



bachelor's degree at the end of their second year in the OD program. Candidates are eligible for this program if they have completed twelve semester hours each of science and humanities at the undergraduate level. The BS degree must be earned before completing the OD program.

## EDUCATIONAL POLICY INFORMATION

This section briefly outlines some of the educational policies of The New England College of Optometry. A complete listing of policies and procedures can be found in the Student Handbook on the College's website. Students, faculty and administrators are expected to familiarize themselves with the academic, clinical, student ethics, and administrative policies.

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC), composed of faculty members, administrators and student representatives, is responsible for the implementation of the College's educational policies. The Committee is here to offer support to students and to counsel them.

### Degree Requirements

Degrees will be conferred pursuant to the completion of the following requirements:

- Curriculum Requirements: All didactic and clinical requirements for the degree must have been completed.
- Academic Requirements: Candidates for the Doctor of Optometry Degree must have a minimum grade point average of 2.00 with no outstanding grades of Fail, Remedial or Incomplete. Candidates for the Master of Science degree must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 for all graduate courses with no outstanding grades of Fail or Incomplete. (The cumulative GPA is not a rounded number; a cumulative GPA of 1.99 does not qualify a student for graduation.)
- Professional Conduct Requirement: No student will be allowed to graduate with charges or pending actions.
- Faculty and Board of Trustees Approval: The decision to confer a degree requires formal approval by the Faculty and Board of Trustees.
- Fiscal Requirements: All fiscal obligations must be satisfied at least one week before a degree is conferred. These include tuition and fees, clinic expenses, and bookstore and/or library charges.
- Financial Aid Exit Interview: A student who has received financial aid must have an exit interview with a Financial Aid officer.

### Student Status

The Registrar will determine a student's academic progress or standing after each term.

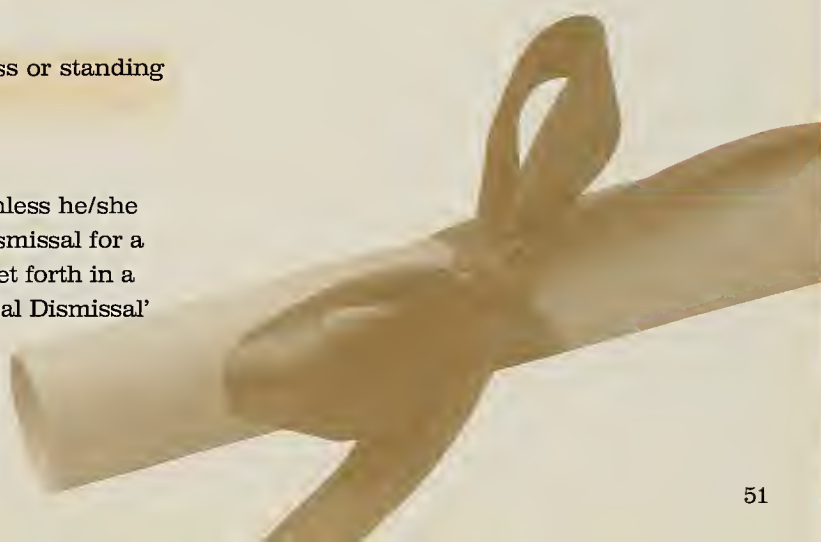
### Academic Standing

A student is considered to be in good academic standing unless he/she has met any of the criteria for Academic and/or Clinical Dismissal for a second consecutive time or has not met the requirements set forth in a modified program. (Please review the 'Academic and Clinical Dismissal' sections that are in the Student Handbook.)



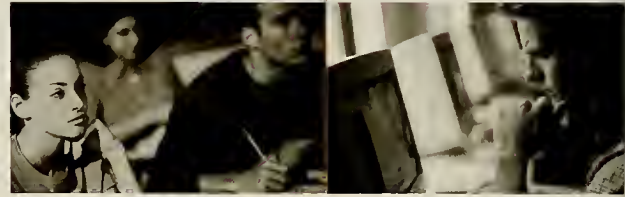
"Our students are known for their clinical experience when they graduate."

THE COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC  
REQUIREMENTS





“The College serves the community by providing quality clinical vision care and educating the public about vision and eye health.”



#### THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

##### **Academic Progress**

A student whose expected date of graduation is not more than one year after the date anticipated at the time of matriculation will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress.

At the end of each term, the Registrar and/or the SAC review a student's performance. A student may progress normally or may be placed in one of the following categories.

**Academic Distinction:** A student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above at the end of an academic year will have achieved academic distinction for that academic year.

**Academic Warning:** A student will be placed on academic warning when his/her cumulative GPA falls within the range of 2.00–2.20.

**Academic Probation:** A student will be placed on academic probation for one or more of the following:

- student's cumulative grade point average is below the minimum grade point average of 2.00 required for advancement to the next professional year or graduation,
- student's term grade point average is 1.60 or below in any one term,
- student has earned two grades of “F” in one term.

**Clinical Probation:** A student will be placed on clinical probation for one or more of the following:

- student has earned a grade of remedial in a clinical course,
- student has earned a grade of failure in a clinical course.



**Modified Status:** A student whose program has been changed as listed below will be placed on modified status. Modification may take the form of increasing the time allowed to complete the curriculum, the sequence in which courses are taken, and/or by setting a different academic or clinical standard.

**Inquiry Status:** A student who has an unprofessional conduct complaint pending before the SAC will be classified as an inquiry status student until the complaint is resolved. (Please review the 'Unprofessional Conduct' section that is in the Student Handbook.)

### **Requirements for Student Advancement**

A student is required to meet minimum academic standards in order to advance to the next professional year of study.

- a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 at the end of the academic year,
- a student entering the final Professional Year must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 and no more than one grade of Incomplete, In Progress, Remedial, or Fail in didactic or clinical courses unless placed in a modified program.

### **Dismissal Policies**

A student is eligible for dismissal when his/her performance has satisfied one or more of the following dismissal categories. A student will be required to meet with the Student Affairs Committee for review and determination of his/her status. A student, who is eligible for dismissal and retained by the SAC, is automatically placed on "Modified Status."

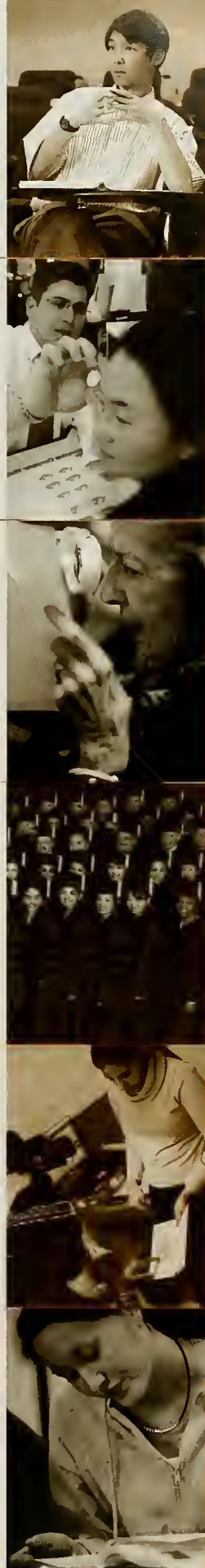
**Academic Dismissal:** A student in a degree program may be subject to dismissal:

- when the term GPA is 1.60 or below,
- following two consecutive terms on academic probation,
- when a grade of "F" is earned in a course retaken to resolve a grade of "F,"
- when the requirements for advancement are not met,
- or when additional modified status requirements have not been met.

**Clinical Dismissal:** A student in a degree program may be subject to dismissal:

- following a grade of Fail (F) earned in a clinical course that involves patient care,
- following two consecutive Remedial (RM) grades earned in clinical courses that involve patient care,
- when three nonconsecutive Remedial (RM) grades are accumulated in clinical courses that involve patient care,
- following two consecutive terms on clinical probation,
- or when additional modified status/remediation requirements have not been met.

The Student Handbook on the College's website has further information about policies, procedures and processes, [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu). It is revised and updated throughout the year as needed. The Student Handbook is used as the basis for all academic decisions.





#### THE COLLEGE

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

College and community activities are available to students as their time permits. Here are just a few of the opportunities available.

#### Student Council

The Student Council governs the internal affairs of the student body. The Council consists of twenty-five voting members and is made up of the Executive Board, representatives from each class, and officers from the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA), National Optometric Student Association (NOSA), and Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH). The Student Council organizes legislation, activities, the annual Halloween and holiday parties, the Eye Ball, and the yearbook. The Council also meets periodically with school administrators to assist in setting policy concerning student interests.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

#### American Academy of Optometry

The goal of the American Academy of Optometry is to maintain and enhance excellence in standards of optometric practice. This is achieved by fostering research and disseminating knowledge. Annual Academy meetings feature continuing education courses, section programs, oral presentations, scientific posters and exhibits, and award lectures.

#### American Optometric Student Association

The American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) is the international professional organization for optometric students and is often an initial exposure to organized optometry. Each student at the College becomes a member of AOSA when his/her activity fee is paid. AOSA represents student interests to a variety of organizations including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, Association of Regulatory Boards in Optometry, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry and various sections of the American Optometric Association. The annual conference sponsored by AOSA provides students with the opportunity to attend classes, become familiar with various products, and meet fellow students from other schools and colleges of optometry.

#### Beta Sigma Kappa

The Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Fraternity is a select group of optometrists and optometry students who are dedicated to promoting scientific and clinical excellence and high moral standards in the profession. Eligibility is based on academic performance standards. Students in the College's Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Program and the Advanced Standing International Program are also eligible to join the fraternity if they meet minimum academic criteria. Membership is for life.

#### Massachusetts Society of Optometrists

The Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) is dedicated to the fulfillment of quality vision and eye care needs of the public. MSO seeks to unite all Massachusetts optometrists in their effort to practice the highest standard of care through support of continuing education and research. The MSO is the legal watchdog for the profession in Massachusetts, and is involved with legislative affairs, professional ethics, community health and education. It is also the primary source of information in optometry for both the general public and the optometrists of Massachusetts.



### National Optometric Student Association

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) promotes the delivery of vision care to minority communities through consumer education, legislative advocacy and minority recruitment and retention activities. NOSA's recruitment efforts include talks with elementary, high school and college students. NOSA is affiliated with the National Optometric Association, an organization of optometrists of color.

### Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity/New England

VOSH/New England is the largest independent student-run organization at the College, involving both students and optometrists. VOSH's goal is to deliver eye care to those who lack access to such services for financial or other reasons. The annual trip to Chetumal, Mexico, provides students with an opportunity to see hundreds of patients per day.



"My VOSH trip to Chetumal not only exposed me to ocular conditions I might never see again, but to valuable lessons in life that can't be taught in any classroom. To help over a thousand people better their lives with sight in a matter of days was so impressive."

### THE COLLEGE

## STUDENT SERVICES

The Office of Student Services assists students on any matter that may affect their success in the classroom or clinic. The office can provide assistance to arrange peer tutoring and peer advising, personal counseling, help with learning strategies, and help in emergencies. The office also serves as a "Student Advocate" and assists in bringing student concerns to the attention of faculty and administration. The Student Council and all other student organizations receive advice and support from this office.

The office is responsible for planning student orientation programs and assisting in student transition into the College community as well as supporting students in a variety of issues and events outside of their academic and professional lives. These support services include housing assistance, a housing clinic for new students each summer, maintenance of the Student Health Insurance Program, arrangements for the annual commencement celebration for graduating students, and maintenance of the College's job placement website.

The Office of Student Services is the place where students can find answers to their questions. The office can always refer students to the best person to talk with or the best resource to use.

"I was happy to find great support outside of the classroom with peer tutors and academic counselors."





### Board of Trustees Officers

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## **The New England College of Optometry**

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[www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu)

### **Publications of The New England College of Optometry**

*Journal of the American Association of Colleges of Optometry*

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*Journal of Optometric Education*

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*Journal of the American Association of Colleges of Optometry*

*Journal of Optometric Education*

*Journal of Optometry*

*Journal of Optometry*



**The New England College of Optometry is easily reached from major routes and public transportation into Boston.**

#### **By Car**

From the West, take the Mass. Turnpike (Route 90): Exit 22, Prudential Center/Copley Square (about two miles after the toll booth on the Boston extension of the Turnpike). Take the Copley Square ramp and turn left onto Dartmouth Street. Continue on Dartmouth until the signal intersection with Beacon Street. Turn left onto Beacon Street and continue four blocks to Herford Street. (The names of the cross streets are in alphabetical order.)

From North or South, take Route 93: Exit at Storror Drive. Exit from Storror Drive at Copley Square/Back Bay and turn right onto Beacon Street and continue until you reach Herford Street.

From Logan Airport: Go through the Sinner Tunnel and follow the signs to Storror Drive. Follow directions above.

#### **By Train (Amtrak or Commuter Line)**

From the Back Bay Amtrak station: At front of the station exit, turn right onto Dartmouth Street and then left onto Beacon Street. It is about a 15-minute walk to the College.

#### **By Public Transportation (MBTA or the "T")**

From the B, C and D Green Lines: Get off at the Hynes Convention Center/ICA stop and exit onto Newbury Street. Turn right onto Newbury Street, walk one block and turn left onto Herford Street. It is about a five-minute walk to the College.

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